

Aboriginal Education School District No. 62



Our Vision, Mission, and Values

VISION—The Aboriginal Education Team, comprised of both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people, believe that through our actions today, our children will be proud to see their culture integrated and respected within schools, community and society. We believe they will become academically and socially successful, proud leaders in their communities.

MISSION—The Aboriginal Education Team commits to work for Aboriginal students in an accountable way in order to nurture, support, mentor and teach students to take pride in their culture, their history and their traditions..

VALUES—As an Aboriginal Education Team, we believe that personal integrity, honesty, respect and inclusiveness are essential to our work with students, parents, community members, teachers, administrators and each other.

May 2011

Spring & Summer

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Aboriginal Languages

Below are the three words for thank you for our three island nations:

Hych'ke -
Coast Salish

Kleco kleco -
Nuu-chah-nulth

Gilakasla -
Kwakwaka'
wakw

Kathleen King-Hunt, District Principal Aboriginal Education

Department News

It seems odd to talk about snow – but that is what happened to our first Celebrating Student Success date. We got snowed out. One of our themes was to celebrate the ‘Wekes’ Frog- symbol of the new year. It seems the frogs needed to wait until March – so we did! What a fabulous event. We had a full house at Journey Middle School. The Aboriginal Education Staff magically set up and displayed examples of student success in a multi-purpose area. A huge display reflecting all our schools efforts! The Celebrating Student Success committee thrived creating an event to remember. All were welcomed by huge posters displaying, welcoming figures and symbols of the Coast Salish creating a sacred circle in the gym. The Me to We organization facilitated middle school students in presenting interactive activities to help celebrate the themes. Prior to the event Me to We organizers, Chelsea, Mitch and Stephanie visited Middle School students to engage students in leadership sessions and the Sacred Circle. Elders – Shirley Alphonse and Stacey Jones assisted in the Sacred Circle components. Jessy Westrand, a recent Belmont graduate, joined Me to We as a mentor leader and continued sessions at Journey well into May. Jody Bauche, Aboriginal Success by Six, joined us to enlist Middle School students to provide early learn-

ing fun at our event. Metis stew was offered by the Metis Nation of Greater Victoria. Bill Bresser, MNGV president provided a real bison treat! Chief Gordon Planes our keynote for the evening expressed words of wisdom on the environment and the future of our communities needing to take action. The highlight of the evening was our schools’ student performers. What talent!

The Aboriginal Education Enhancement Agreement has provided the district with many accomplishments this school year. Our graduation rate has an increasing trend. Role Models in schools have tripled to meet the goal – Sense of Belonging and Aboriginal Ways of Knowing. The Aboriginal Education staff newsletter articles share what is happening in schools. Enjoy! The district has increased language opportunities in Hulq’emeylem, Sencoten, and Ditidaht languages. These initiatives all add to the academic goal we have for Aboriginal learners in our districts’ schools. Our department and schools have had a very productive and successful year embracing the Aboriginal Education Enhancement Agreement.

Hych’ke Kathleen King—Hunt
District Principal, Aboriginal
Education

Scia’new Nation Canoe Blessing

On May 12, 2011, Beecher Bay community hosted a canoe blessing event at Cheanuh Marina. Opening remarks were given by Elder Isabel Charles. Chief Russell Chipps welcomed over 250 school-children to the traditional territory of Scia’new Nation, from Hans Helgesen, Crystal View, Lakewood, and Sangster. Russell Chipps had been at the elementary schools to share stories with the above elementary schools. The Shaker Faith completed a memorable blessing of the canoe. Later, in the Longhouse, storytelling and drumming were offered by numerous Coast Salish elders and role models. Mayor David Saunders was in hand to congratulate the chief and community on a remarkable event. Display tents featured Coast Salish arts, seafood, and more. A lunch was provided for all and a big Hych’ke to Aboriginal Health & Wellness Vancouver Island for making the event happen.



Our Traditional Territories

School District Schools are located on two traditional territories:

- Coast Salish
- Nuu-chah-nulth

Our three local First Nations Bands

Pacheedaht Nation – Port Renfrew

T’Sou-ke Nation – Sooke

Scia’new Nation – Beecher Bay

‘SD No. 62 On Reserve population is 14%’ There are 889.5 Aboriginal students in our program this year!’

Métis Organizations

- Métis Nation of Greater Victoria
- Métis Community Service

‘SD No. 62 has 252 Métis students in our schools!’

Our Staff

Aboriginal Education Teachers

Justine Durrant – Belmont Secondary

Kathy Sudlow – Edward Milne Community School, EMCS

Helen Wood – Spencer Middle

Patti Christianson – Journey Middle; Sooke Elementary schools

Tim May – Port Renfrew Elementary

Jane Beswick – Elementary/Middle E.S.D.

Samantha Harvey– Elementary/Middle E.S.D.

Loni Skelton – First Nations Grad Program - Westshore Learning Centre

Lisa Stuart— Port Renfrew Elementary

Aboriginal Education Support Workers

Trish McNabb – Edward Milne Community School, EMCS

Lynn Ferguson – Belmont Secondary

Karen Whetung— Pacific / Westshore Annex

Dennis Warbrick – Spencer Middle

Tania Fetherston – Dunsmuir Middle

Michelle Nahanee – Journey Middle

Edie Charley – Sooke / John Muir Elem.

Sherri Rose—Saseenos/Poirier Elem./Belmont

Murielle Lagace – Ruth King Elem. / Sooke FDK Elder Project

Deb Meir – David Cameron / John Stubbs

Laurie Gibson- Crystal View/ Lakewood / Sangster

Sharon Bond – Happy Valley Elem.

Gina Elliott- Savory/ Millstream/Wishart/Colwood Elem.

Sharlene Rogers – Willway/ Hans Helgesen Elem.

Greg Piche – Metchosin Technical Centre/Belmont

Pam Jones – Port Renfrew Elementary

Lavina Charles – SD62 Aboriginal Language

Shirley Alphonse—SD 62 Aboriginal Language

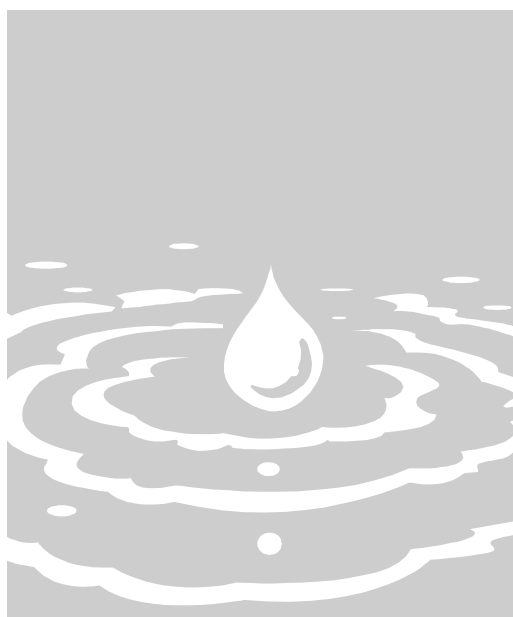
District Office

Kathleen King-Hunt – District Principal

Earleen Covey – Secretary

Our Website

[www.sd62.bc.ca/aboriginal education](http://www.sd62.bc.ca/aboriginal%20education) (look forward to updates in 2011)



Early Learning & Elementary News

Journeys of the Heart

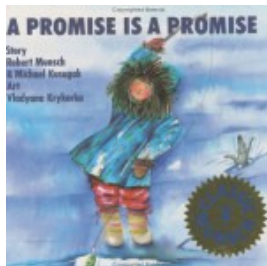
June 1st will feature *Journey's of the Heart* Ready, Set, Learn Event with Aboriginal Role Model Art Napoleon storyteller and musician. What a treat! Early learning families will be introduced to school readiness tips, receive book bags and a favorite lunch!

Visit Art's website and listen to 'Bannock boogie' from Mocikan CD

<http://www.artnapoleon.com/music.html>

A Place to Play

June 1st will feature *A Place to Play's* first Ready, Set, Learn event with Aboriginal Author Michael Kusugak. What a treat! Early learning families will be introduced to school readiness tips, receive book bags and a favorite lunch!



Outreach StrongStart

Strong Start is a free program where children aged 0-5, accompanied by a parent or caregiver, can participate in organized sessions which include play activities, circle time, snack time, and activities that help develop gross motor skills.

A Place to Play—Beecher Bay Strong Start is every Tuesday and Thursday afternoons. All Welcome!

Beecher Bay "A Place to Play"
4901B East Sooke Rd
Sooke, BC V0S 1N0
Tuesday
8:45 – 11:45 a.m.

Thursday Afternoons

Thanks to Victoria Literacy for donat-

ing home reading books for B.E.A.R.

Thanks to Sooke Literacy for books for Pacheedaht Band Office 'new' library.

Port Renfrew Elementary - Strong Start

6633 Deering Rd,
Port Renfrew, BC V0S 1K0
Phone: 250-647-5577

Wednesday & Friday
9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

Ready, Set, Learn 2011 Events

February 2, 2011

Location: SeaParc, Sooke

Ed Peekeekoot performed for early learning families and everyone had a chance to play an instrument along with Ed!

Location: Westshore Mall, Langford

Thanks to Dunsmuir students for assisting with this event and Elder storytelling session.

B.E.A.R.

Westshore Rotary reads at Hans Helgesen and A Place to Play weekly.

A new community library will be unveiled in 2011!

Thanks to Westshore Rotary for the volunteering and generous donations to Scia's new library.

John Muir

It's been a very busy year and we are coming to the end. Thank you to all the teacher's who gave students work for our display at the Aboriginal Student Success Night. Way to go to all our students-great work. Acknowledgements to all our "Read with Me" participants, very well done. We would like to say Hych'ke to Charlene George for doing school wide cultural art projects. Including Ms. Shirley and Ms. Murielle for the Elder's project. Thank you to PAC for all the support through out the year. Gilakasla to Leslie McGarry for coming and sharing with us the

"Box of Treasures". We had an exciting visit from Ashleigh McIvor Gold Medal Winner of women's Ski-Cross at the 2010 Winter Olympics. Her LifeSprot Coach Paul Regenburg who had inspiring words to share with our future olympians. We would like to wish the best to Klaus Benker at Savory and Sharon Schwartz at Poirier. We will miss you, your schools are blessed to have you both. Have a wonderful summer!

Sooke

We are gearing down for the end of the year. A lot has happened at Sooke lately. During Literacy week Sooke held 3 draws-daily book draw, favourite book, and poem in my pocket. Daily book draw: Neesha L., Dakota M., Manny R., Nakoda W. Owen C. and Karissa H. Favourite book-draw: Hunter M. and Jordan K. Poem in my pocket: Olivia C. Sooke had a special guest visit for David Bouchard, Metis Author, he told stories and played wonderful music from various flutes he brought to share with the children. (each flute had its own story). Some of our students were fortunate to get an autographed book mark or one of his books. Sooke holds a Challenge Program, becoming an expert. This program is held for students who meet or excel grade level literacy expectations. There are 3 projects to complete, they build models and put them on display for the school to see. Way to go on your projects, Erin N. and Araina R. Fun Fair held by PAC, Thank you to the volunteers for making it happen. Aboriginal student success night we had work displayed from every class in our school. Thank you to all our students and teachers, we are all a success. Other exciting school news at Sooke: New Kindy registration, student orientation; Science Venture, UVic Scientists doing workshops from K-5; Jump Rope for Heart; Gr. 5 DARE program grad June 2; school wide beach day June 10; Gr. 5 grad June 20

Elementary News

(congrats to the grade fives going to Journey); Welcome to Samantha Harvey who will be temporary replacing Ms. Becker we'd like to wish Ms. Becker well and see her in September. Special Thank you to the following: Mr. Cheng for donations of paper from Staples for the year end certificates. Leslie McGarry for the Box of Treasures. Gordon Planes bringing Aboriginal perspectives into the classroom. Charlene George Aboriginal Ways of Knowing through art. Ms. Murielle and Ms. Shirley for the Elder's Program; -a special thank you to PAC for your support through out the year. We would like to wish Ms. Byrne all the best in her new school. Thank her for all she has done at Sooke. We will miss her. Enjoy your summer vacation!

Ms. Edie, Ab. Ed. Support

Patti Christianson, Ab Ed Teacher

Millstream (Mondays)

It has been a busy few months at all schools. Here at Millstream I have 14 students and I am at Millstream on Mondays. We meet once a week during lunch for our "Culture Club" but not all students attend. The kids that do attend during lunch are awesome and enjoy this every Monday. We have done weaving, button blankets, First Nation arts for Christmas and Easter where kids learned basic First Nations art designs. We are hoping to do 2 more projects before school ends; which are Fathers' Day and Totem poles. I have provided in-class drumming and singing to a couple of classes where I included local First Nations information during the drum/sing such as; language, traditional ceremonies, and territory. We had a drummer/singer attend the school, Scott Sam from Niltuo Child and Family Services, who provided us with lovely songs and teachings around the drum. After this we did a design our own drum project! Another in-class activity was First Nation design book markers. I have been providing one-on-one support that includes reading, math, and an activity upon their efforts on those topics!

Savory (Tues/Wed)

At Savory I have 21 students and I am there Tuesdays and Wednesdays. Our "Aboriginal Club" is on Wednesdays during lunch. We have done weaving, button blankets, First Nations art that includes book markers, Christmas décor, and basic First Nations art design teachings. Here at Savory I mainly provide in-class and one on one support to students. Savory also will be doing the "Treasure Box" program that is provided by Victoria Native Friendship Centre (VNFC) that includes an intro to First Nations people, a Museum Tour, and an activity (making pouches). I have provided in-class drumming and singing to a couple of classes here as well. Drumming and singing provided at this school along with information around Coast Salish culture and language.

Colwood (Thursdays)

Here at Colwood we have 13 students. I have worked lots on reading, math, and some science with couple students one-on-one and an in-class support. Our Culture Club is also at lunch times on Thursdays. We have done weaving, button blankets, basic First Nations art designs, book markers, Easter and Christmas décor. I have included colouring one day, of First Nations art so that the kids are familiar with colours, designs, animal design and what this might symbolize for First Nations people. We had a drummer/singer attend the school, Scott Sam from Niltuo Child and Family Services, who provided us with lovely songs and teachings around the drum. Here Scott allowed me to record a couple of the songs and gave me permission to utilize these songs to classrooms and groups! Very grateful!

Wishart (Fridays)

Here at Wishart we have 14 students. I provide mainly in-class support and know a one-on-one with a student working on math. There have been many in-class activities, basic First Nation art designs, button blankets, drumming/singing, and design your own drum. Wishart is also participating in the "Treasure Box" program that is provided by Victoria Native



Friendship Centre (VNFC) that includes an intro to First Nations people, a Museum Tour, and an activity (making pouches). Fridays are a tough day to implement a "Culture Club" as most field trips and other activities take place on these days as well as Pro D days. It is my hope that a club can start up in the near future!

Gina Elliott

David Cameron

It has been a great year at David Cameron! We have been quite busy with some very cool projects. On April 1st we had Charlene George do an awesome First Nations art lesson. She taught the lesson to the entire school through the monitors that are in each class. It went really well and the teachers and students were happy with the results. Thanks Charlene, great job!

I also had Howard Lafortune come in and share with a few classes, his wonderful carvings and knowledge. Terry his grandson was his helper for the morning. We are also hoping to have Howard back in to help us design mini paddles before the end of the school year. Also we have had Leslie McGarry come in and share her wonderful presentation, "Box of Treasures."

During Culture time some students made beautiful dream catchers for their moms for Mother's Day. We also have been doing a lot of art and the students love to watch Raven Tales.

Continued on page 8

Elementary News

Hello Everyone from John Stubbs

It has been a good year at John Stubbs. The school has been active and busy with many different things. We have had Charlene George on a steady basis come in and teach an art class with the grade 8's. There is a lot of interest in the art and a few students stayed through lunch to learn more.

Howard Lafortune has also come in a few times to share his wood and carving skills in Trevor Royle's wood work class. This has sparked some interest and some wonderful projects have been made in class. Trevor also has big plans for the future at John Stubbs. (to be announced later)

The school also had Leslie McGarry come in and share with the grades 2 and 3's her "Box of Treasures" presentation. The students loved the Museum and loved her coming in. I also enjoy listening to Leslie; she has wonderful ways of teaching the culture.

The Culture Group has been working on dream catchers and some were finished for Mother's day. We also had a get together at lunch for a big batch of nachos, students brought in food to share, and we sang songs and had a lot of fun.

The rest of the year will be finishing projects and getting our work done. Hope everyone has a great summer break!

Deb Meir

Port Renfrew Elementary

Has time flown by, June is almost here and the end of another school year at Port Renfrew Elementary has almost come! It has been busy over the last number of months with many highlights. From many guests visiting our school, getting

ready for the track meet, practicing the Ditidaht language, to students displaying amazing talents in many subjects, our students have had awesome experiences and displayed wonderful work these few months.

During this term we have had very talented guests come to our school to work with our students. Ed Peekeekoot, from the Ahtahkakoop Cree First Nation arrived last month with an incredible collection of instruments consisting of the fiddle, banjo, and traditional Native flute and drums. It was interactive for everyone and students had a blast taking part and learning about the instruments, but also listening to Ed's cultural stories. Artist Charlene George from the T'Sou-ke First Nation also visited. She worked with students, encouraging and providing them with her beautiful designs to decorate their own mini paddles and wall hangings. Everyone was "wowed" by her designs! As well, recently Christine Donaldson from the Métis Nation of Greater Victoria drove the West Coast Road to provide some hands on experiences, discussions, and art activities about Métis culture and history. It was great enjoyment for all who took part in that day. Thank you for all who have come out over the past few months!

Port Renfrew students have been continuing on numerous literacy activities this term. Many students are still working hard on their fluency and comprehension with "Speed Read", as well as daily practice with Strong Reader Tools- important rules to remember during reading in order to enhance and help with reading comprehension. Students have also made new pen pal friends from the Acwshalcta School located in Bella Coola. In addition, we have been learning about what makes up stories, how to create our own, as well as their importance to culture and tradition.

A number of art projects have also been on the go! Integrating on learning about the importance of community, our students have completed a beautiful wall

hanging displaying our school community and everyone who is a part of it. Soon it will be hanging in our hallways! Our decorated book case has also been completed which holds new books for our students to read at the Pacheedaht band office in the summer or after school. For our last project of the year, our students have started paddles which they are carefully sanding and beginning to paint, and will one day perhaps use. A lot of time and dedication has already been put in by our Port Renfrew students on these paddles already.



Upcoming events must also be mentioned. Again, just as last year Port Renfrew students will be taking part in the upcoming track meet at Belmont Secondary. I know our students will really enjoy the event again- taking part in it, as well as cheering on their classmates. Last to mention, our year end celebration will be taking place on Wednesday, June 22nd and we hope it will be a big turnout. We have a number of students who are off to Journey Middle School next school year so it will be an especially important day for some who will be leaving us and moving on to new horizons. We wish them all the best and will miss them dearly. As you can tell it has been a very busy year!! Enjoy the upcoming warm weather and summertime fun which is just around the corner.

Mr. May

Elementary School News

Ruth King Elementary

The DARE program student graduated last week from that program all 49 students.

May 11th we had the Opera Society do and rendition of Hansel and Gretel with an Aboriginal slant to it.

Welcome back to James and welcome to a new Kindi. Tyla returned back from Prince Rupert.

Our principal Mr. Manhas went to a presentation on the brain. We now hold a reading group (the staff) with the book called, Brain Rules, very informative and discussed in lay language.

First Nations Room just next to the Office always has fresh fruit and granola bars for students who need a snack. A Breakfast Club tip: Hard boiled eggs and Beef Jerky. It is fast and full on protein. Children cannot learn if they are hungry.

Our Boys Soccer teams won 13 out of 15 games. Way to go!!!

Our Girls Soccer team won some and lost some. That's it gals!!!

Mr. Dranchucks' class has had some interesting science lessons. First were the salmon eggs, when they were ready to let go we took them to Goldstream and the students let them go, two days later that accident with the oil truck that capsized, destroying all the fry.

So Mr. Dranchucks' class went up to Bear Mt. to release more fry into safer waters. Next project was the incubation of chicks. Today we saw 4 of the chicks hatch and one is still half way in its shell.

Murielle Legace

Greetings from Happy Valley School

Well, what a year! This is the final newsletter for the school year 2010-2011. It has been a fun-filled year with lots of activity! The Aboriginal students were visited by the Metis Family Services, and given excellent presentation learning about our Metis community. We also had a visit from local Coast Salish artist Charlene George. The children made beautiful wall hangings just in time for Mother's Day. A big thank-you to parent helper, Corrie Dunseith who assisted on this day.

I would like to say a special Thank you to our Principal, and Vice-principal who supported our program throughout the year. Linda Magiera will be retiring this year from Happy Valley, and Maureen Lauren will be moving on to Sangster Elementary in September as Principal. Enjoy Ladies!

Everyone have a safe and relaxing, well deserved summer break!

Kleco kleco,

Sharon Bond

Sooke Schools – Elders Program

The Elders program is going so well. Shirley Alphonse and I (Murielle Lagace) are teaching Sencoten to 6 Kindergarten classes in Sooke – John Muir, Sooke, and Saseenos. Wow are those little people something else, they are like wee sponges just soaking up the language. They all can count to 10, they know about 15 animal names and we are going to start on colors next.

The students also love the stories read at that time too. We have a new game call, I've been thinking of.... And each child says a word that they know in Sencoten.

Murielle Legace

Lakewood, Crystal View, & Lakewood

Elementary

Lakewood and Crystal View and Sangster Elementary went out to Beecher Bay to be a part of the blessing of the ocean-going canoe and storytelling and big lunch, with Chief Russ Chipps. The children enjoyed the culture, drumming and the food. It was a very special day for everybody to come together as one community. I was happy to see everyone enjoy themselves so much.

THANK-YOU!!!

Laurie Gibson

Willway Elementary

Miss Rogers is having fun working in the classrooms and instructing Aboriginal Art lessons as well. Some students are learning a few Helkeminem, words what fun!

The whole school participated in making an Aboriginal (C'ALES-chalus) hand design for a boarder to go up in the school. They look so (I'Y) good everyone (HI'YC'KE-hichku) thank you for all your help.

Hans Helgesen Elementary

Miss Rogers is enjoying working in the classrooms; I'm getting to know students more know! I have been able to get to some classrooms and instruct Aboriginal Art lessons. Students and staff seem to enjoy this. Lunch group is fun. Some of the students are helping me with my Helkeminem Language that I'm learning from Mrs. Charles. (I seem to make her laugh a lot the way I say some of the words). Some staff, students and parents really enjoyed themselves going to Beecher Bay to the Canoe Blessing and seeing the celebration in the Long House. This was a great opportunity for everyone involved!

HI'YC'KE to Chief Chipps and all his

Elementary & Middle School News

relations for involving us.

It's been a pleasure working at this school again! Take care

Sharlene Rogers

Saseenos Elementary

In each month, teachers nominate students for their special endeavors and efforts. The following students have been nominated since Christmas break; Ella (Mrs. Strachota), Elijah (Mrs. Symington), Kohl and Terrence (Mrs. Haddad).

Mrs. Watkins grade 5's went to Journey Middle School for transition. As well they graduated from the DARE program. Congratulations Grade fives!

Mrs. Haddad's class piloted a new Métis Project to introduce students to the Métis Culture, acknowledge and value the Métis as one of the distinct cultures in the Canadian mosaic and develop recognition of some of the Métis traditions such as music, dance, dress and food. Mrs. Haddad's class also held an in class garage sale and broke all kinds of records for raising money. Kohl single handedly raised the most money in class! Congratulation Kohl!

The students had the pleasure of meeting guest speaker Eric Wong, giving them cultural teachings about respect, taught them about using their WITS, leaving them with some wonderful books, a game and a DVD.

Congratulations to the Destination Conservation team students and staff. Saseenos saved 23,754 KWWH's of electricity a 21% savings! (Fact: It costs SD62 and extra \$10 000 per year if all the gym lights in SD62 are left on for 1 extra hour every school day).

Miniature Aboriginal paddles were made by many of the students and are being showcased by the front of the school.

Great job kids! They look great!

Poirier Elementary

Staffing update - Carrie George, an Educational Assistant has retired. We wish Carrie well and thank her for the many hours of dedication to Poirier.

Jump Rope for Heart was a huge success, thank you to all the parent volunteers who helped to make the day fun for the students.

Japanese Tea - Many generous donations for the devastating earthquake in Japan raised \$1400. All proceeds will go directly to Natori, Japan.

Talent Show - Annual Talent show presentation on Monday May 2nd was a great success. Many students participated in singing, dancing, comedy skits and much more. All the students did a great job having so much courage to stand in front of students, staff and parents to show case their talents.

Miniature Aboriginal paddles were made by many of the students and are being showcased by the front of the school. Great job kids! They look great!

Sherri Rose

Journey Middle School

What an exciting spring this has been. A few of our grade eights have been busy working on drums with Charlene George and enjoying the experience immensely. Our grade sixes had the opportunity to make lovely mother's day presents. We have also had Port Renfrew Elementary visit Journey two times this spring. They have enjoyed pizza lunches, meeting students, and participating in art activities.

We have been very fortunate to have a practicum student from Camosun College here for May and June. Asya has been wonderful to have here and the students

are enjoying working with her. Way to go Asya you Rock!

Journey also hosted our annual Aboriginal Student Success Night in March. This was an amazing event with many families, student leadership with Me to We, and wonderful student performers. Thanks to the staff at Journey who helped make the night be such a wonderful success!

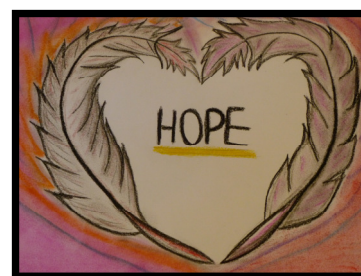
We are now winding down the school year with making sure students are keeping up with their assignments so they can all attend fun and exciting fieldtrips!

Michelle Nahanee

Patti Christianson



EMCS Student Artwork



Belmont Student Artwork

Continued from page 5

David Cameron

The year has flown by and has been busy with some great stuff. I hope you all have a great summer break! Deb Meir

Middle School News

Dunsmuir Middle

Dunsmuir is going to miss, Miss Harvey and we would like to welcome back Mrs. Snook.

I would like to congratulate the band and choir students who went to the Nationals in Vancouver. As things start to wind down here at Dunsmuir the staff and students are getting ready for the grade nine leaving ceremony we are going to miss, Christine S, Annie M, Jessica A, Sierra S, Steve C, Amber T, Dawnie D, Sager B, Cody C, Shynia B, Jared H, and Joshua D. I wish you all the very best in grade ten.

I would also like to thank the students and parents for all the hard work they have put in this year, and I hope all of you all enjoy your summer.

Tania Fetherston

Spencer Middle

We are proud to announce that the number of students on our effort roll has steadily increased. The students have worked very hard to complete their assignments.

May, will see the completion of the drum project. With creativity and much patience twenty four drums have designs drawn and carefully painted on their surfaces. These drums will be available for viewing from Tuesday May 24th until June 3rd at our Spencer Student All Nations Art Show. If you miss the show you are welcome to come and view the art projects in the All Nations Room. The art will remain up an additional week. After the art show date, noon is a good time for visiting as the students' studies will not be disturbed.

June is a busy month with a fun field trip planned just before exams. Then the Grade Nine Celebration takes place followed by end of the year assembly and finally saying goodbye to our wonderful Grade nines. They will be missed. Best wishes for a very successful future and a very fond farewell to Darby, Tawnie,

Shantel, Brett, Richard, Ted, Tara, Robert, Kathryn, Robyn, Sarah, Kirsten, Dakota, Karina, and Travis.

Dennis Warbrick & Helen Wood

Belmont Secondary

It has been another great semester at Belmont Secondary School! It has been my pleasure to join SD 62 Aboriginal Education staff while Norma-Jean enjoys a maternity leave. I have had a wonderful time getting to know all of our incredible students; I get up every morning excited to come in and work with all of them! It has also been a pleasure to teach alongside Lynn Ferguson, Greg Piché, and Sherri Rose who all continue to serve as great mentors to our students.

We have had fantastic great visitors to our All Nations Room this spring. Megan and Diana from the Victoria Native Friendship Center shared opportunities available to our students at the VNFC, including Tribal Journeys and drop-in clubs. Camosun's Nursing Program sent a student to discuss the many positive features of both their program and the career. Finally, Alex Nelson visited one of our English classes to speak to his experiences with education and identity. Our weekly highlight is pancake Thursdays where Lynn whips up a hot lunch for an every growing group of students!

Just last week we had two very exciting events, the Aboriginal Graduation Recognition Ceremony and a field trip up to Camosun and UVic. Our grads are still buzzing from the Ceremony. They are taking every chance they get to proudly show off their new rings, or "grad bling!" Our field trip was also a very inspiring day; we were welcomed, toured and provided with extensive information by each schools' Indigenous Education staff members! Both local post-secondary schools are very excited to work with our students in the future.

I think it is also important to note some day-to-day success: one of our boys finished reading his first novel, many of our

students will be featured in Belmont's art show, our student athletes are wrapping up successful spring season, and many of our grads have received provisional acceptance to Camosun! We look forward to even more success stories in the last few weeks of school.

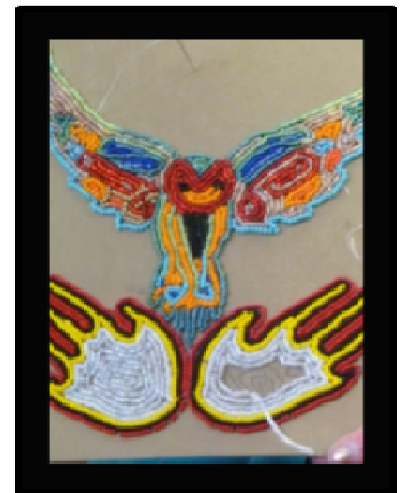
We wish all of our students and their families a fun, safe, and relaxing summer!

Justine Durrant & Lynn Ferguson

Edward Milne Community School

Hello from Edward Milne Community School. Trish McNabb and I are thrilled every day to see the hard work and dedication that our students are putting in this last term. It is an exciting time of year with prom and grad coming soon. We were also so incredibly proud of our Aboriginal graduates and the amazing recognition ceremony that took place at Camosun College on the 14th of May. It is exciting but also a little sad to think that these students are moving on from EMCS and we will miss them.

We were fortunate here at EMCS to have an amazing student teacher, Sharon Bird, who taught the students how to bead on moose hide in art class. Sharon is from Fort St. James and it was amazing to see her cultural expression through this amazing art form.



Secondary School News

While I am on the subject of Art, one of our students, Dallas Charlie, has been working hard with ceramics to create some amazing bowls and it is wonderful to see his imagination take shape in these creations.



Also as a reminder, be sure to look soon for the application to the Back to School Picnic that takes place in August, and is always a lot of fun.

Kathryn Sudlow & Trish McNabb

Pacific Secondary

This has been an eventful semester here at Pacific Secondary School! It's been full of community and leadership. Upon my return I had found some great things started by the wonderful staff in ABED, as well as some new events as the semester progressed. The first was the Button Blanket that Michelle had started, and the second was the hot lunches provided by Laurie.

The Button Blanket became a school wide project, in which students and staff alike learned different wolf stories while sewing at least one button each. Some had sewn their first button ever, while others had expertly taken leadership over the project. We proudly hung the blanket in our school entrance, after its first showing at the Celebration of Student Success.

The hot lunches has evolved into an extra-curricular baking group that prepare baked goods for their classmates on Fridays; the intention is that they start the

week with a refrigerator full of hand made, and healthy, snacks. This group, mostly boys, have made some of the tastiest treats to ever come out of a school! We started with homemade pizza pockets, and have now made: cinnamon buns, pepperoni cheese sticks, ham and cheese buns, pizza pretzels, and apple turnovers. We have learned about food safety, proper packaging and storage, as well as how good it feels to be complimented by so many people!

Around the school people have been buzzing about a variety of events. The first was our leadership trip to the Aboriginal Agency Fair where we not only rested with some acupuncture, but we were astonished by the amount of services available to Aboriginal people in Southern Vancouver Island. Another leadership and community day was spent at Royal Roads University; a group of us had spent the morning pulling out invasive plant species. A bi-product of this community service was not only learning about indigenous plants, but also getting a great work out!

And last, but not least, thank you to all the wonderful people that were involved with this year's Aboriginal Graduation Ceremony. The Pacific staff and Parents were wowed by the venue, as well as the wonderful desserts. A special thank you to Tanya for another amazing cake! I look forward to another year of action and inspiration!

Meegwich
Karen Whetung

Westshore Annex, Aboriginal Graduation Program

As always, the Aboriginal Graduation program has been a room of success! We have had new people come, some people go, and luckily some people return. Within this space, all have been valuable, and have added to the classroom community. The students have shown admirable leadership, strength, and acceptance to the many people who have come and gone this semester. It is with admiration that I

acknowledge not only their academic success, but also their community and personal success.

This semester seven of our students branched outside of our classroom and joined the Sustainable Resources and PE classes. We have been involved in the school garden, as well as learning about environmentalism and local business movement. In class we have made soap and are starting to incorporate local plant medicines into our second batch. (We'll keep you posted in the fall!) In PE we have done a variety of activities from kickboxing to nature hikes. A special thank you goes out to Olson's Gym for not only training us hard, but also for understanding the youth of today and providing them a healthy male role model to learn from. Charles M. awarded the owner with a painted drum as a thank you for all the positive work! On our hikes we not only worked up a sweat, but also spent a lot of time learning and discussing the native plants and their uses. It gave us a strong reminder of the intelligence of the local Indigenous people, and a deeper respect for their territory. Within these two classes, we have had the opportunity of developing our bodies, minds, and spirits.

Outside of these classes we have continued to flourish in the grounding comfort of, what is commonly known as, "Loni's room". Inside the school we've had students preparing meals, keeping the shared kitchen clean, and consistently recycling. They not only provided for each other, but created a welcoming space for visitors. As a class, we ran a table at the Aboriginal Agency fair. There, the students spread information about our program and shared the successes of School District 62. This was also an opportunity to connect the students with post-secondary institutions and agencies. Not only did they represent us well, but had a blast doing it. Within the room we have played host to the Japanese students and exchanged a lot of laughter as we shared the making of button blankets.

Continued on page...13

Secondary School News & Recognition Ceremony

Each year the Aboriginal Education Department hosts a graduate recognition ceremony. This year's event was held at Camosun College new ceremonial outdoor venue Na'tsa'maht. Fifty-one Aboriginal students were acknowledged for their accomplishment. The event on May 14th was prepared in consultation with Coast Salish communities and elders guidance and words of wisdom to our department. The ceremony began with the drumming ceremonial walk into the building by Unity Drummers, T'Sou-ke Nation Drummers and OCM drummers. Elders continued the graduation ceremony with words of wisdom, cedar blessing with traditional drumming to the graduates. Wendy Hobbs, Trustee opened the ceremony on behalf of SD62 and Jim Cambridge, Superintendent acknowledged the achievements of the Aboriginal graduates. John Boraas, Camosun's director of Aboriginal programs at Camosun welcomed us to the new Na'tsa'maht venue. This year's keynote was Andrew Robinson, Associate Deputy Representative of Advocacy, Community and Aboriginal Relations. The buzz from graduates is Andrew's speech was powerful and their favorite part of the day.

Each graduate received words of acknowledgement from school principals and Aboriginal Education Department staff, a graduation certificate from the Aboriginal Education department and a hand carved ring with an Aboriginal traditional Aboriginal design chosen by each student prior to the event. Travis Henry has been designing the rings for our district for the past few years and has provided twenty different designs symbolizing or reflecting their dreams, journey or just a favorite animal, such as, wolf which symbolizes 'guardianship, loyalty, longevity, pathfinder, strong spirit, great teacher, ritual, and family.' The ceremony continued in the Wilna Thomas Aboriginal room with a Graduate PowerPoint featuring all 51 graduates' accomplishments and a grad photo. Families, community members, school officials gathered to speak to graduates, enjoy a delicious catered spread, potluck desserts and admire the department grad cake! Graduates then had an opportunity to have a second grad photo taken with Na'tsa'maht featured in the backdrop. Congrats to the graduates - well done!

Thanks to the many organizations that contributed to the event:

- Camosun College
- SD No. 62 Dry Grad Fund
- T'Sou-ke Nation
- Pacheedaht Nation
- Scia'new Nation
- Métis Nation British Columbia
- UVIC
- Travis Henry
- Classic Fare Catering, Camosun
- Tania Fetherston
- Individual contributions
- SD No. 62 Schools for purchasing our grad fundraiser clothing
- Aboriginal Education Department and Recognition Grad Committee

There may be a few donators not listed. We do the best to collect organization names and individuals that donate to our recognition ceremony. If you are not listed we would like to acknowledge your contribution as it is appreciated by all!

Na'tsa'maht: Camosun officially opens the new Aboriginal Gathering Place

It's official. Camosun's newest building - resembling a huge cedar hat and perched on top of the slope overlooking Lansdowne Road - has been named Na'tsa'maht. This Salish phrase, announced at the grand opening ceremony on April 19, means *unity* or *working together as one*.

To Read More go to: <http://camosun.ca/ccr/news/2011/apr/natsamaht.html>



Schools

Visit the District
Resource Centre
for numerous
Aboriginal titles to
use for the class-
room teaching

*Aboriginal Education
Website:*

**WWW.
sd62.bc.ca/
aboriginal
education**

(look forward to updates in 2011)

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Strong Reader Tools

*When I look at the cover of my book,
my brain searches for information
about...*

1. What I know for sure...

2. What it reminds me of...

3. What I wonder...

4. What I can now predict
the book is going to be about...

As I'm reading my book...

5. I can stop reading when my brain
says, "Hey! That didn't make sense
when"...

6. I can search my brain for
information that isn't in the book,
this will help me to understand the
book better...

7. I can say what the most important
pieces of information are...

8. I can make pictures in my brain or
see a movie of the book in my brain...

After I've finished reading my book...

9. I can now say how my thinking has
changed from my prediction and
I can retell the book...



Starting in January we have had two amazing women in our classroom: Sherri and Tiara. Sherri was providing temporary support services and Tiara is a practicum student from Camosun College's Indigenous Family Support program. The two of them have not only assisted within the classroom, but have brought in a strong sense of cohesion into it. Sherri was a wealth of knowledge and comfort. She quickly and effortlessly engaged everyone; providing us with a safety net of warmth and humour. She has now returned to her previous schools where she, no doubt, is inspiring others. She has been greatly missed and entirely welcomed when she pops in.

Tiara has started the year with enthusiasm and has carried that same positivity into her second practicum. She has consistently provided in class support, while building strong relationships and modeling an eagerness to learn. This influence has been noted in the inspirational writings of the students this year. Not only are they tackling University material, but they are tapping into their culture and powerfully stepping forward with poetry and voice. This movement has been embraced by our other practicum student, and past graduate of the program, Valma.

Valma's return has inspired students that had attended with her in previous years, and displayed the success that are possible in their own futures. Together, Tiara and Valma, create a powerhouse of productivity. Without them, there would be no Cedar roses at the Graduation Ceremony! (which brought in \$150 towards the graduation) We, as a class, had come together and volunteered our time and services to the Aboriginal Graduation Ceremony. From Cedar roses to drumming the day of, the students of this program have spread their wings to support the graduates; knowing that the community will be there for them when their time comes.

Looking forward to sharing future successes!

Karen Whetung

Loni Skelton

Pacific – MTC

Tansi, As the school year comes to a close, it is nice to have had the sun shining for

the past few days out here in Metchosin. As I reflect on the months since my last newsletter submission, so much has happened it is difficult to know where to begin. After saying that, I hear that same reply from my elders..."begin at the beginning."

Our Bridges 9 students have completed their First Nations paddle project, learning about the importance of cedar to the Coast-Salish culture. We discussed some of the Art work of First Nations people and the animals used in art, and how they can be representative of themselves. Currently they are working on a novel study, "Tomorrow When the War Began", in Humanities. In Science, they have worked on Reproduction and Chemistry units and will be starting Electricity in a few weeks. Things could get a little "shocking" if you know what I mean...no one will get hurt! In Media Arts they are currently finishing up their school logo project and will start the year book soon. Each year the grade nine Media Arts class completes the electronic-year book for Pacific MTC, and every year it seems to get better. In Math, Algebra and Linear Relations are complete and they have started a new unit on Ratio, Rate and Percent. In CORE (carpentry) they have finished skim boards and have built two sheds. Another exciting project has been the construction of a bridge for one of the local residence here in Metchosin. The grade nine class has taken two tours in the past few weeks; University of Victoria for a tour of the campus and an introduction to the programs available, Camosun College Interurban to check out all of the awesome apprenticeship possibilities (where our students will end up) and a tour of the DND fleet maintenance facility (another possibility for apprenticeship and employment!!). They are now looking forward to our year-end camp trip to New Castle Island.

Our Bridges 10 students have finished a novel study "The Dead of the Night" a sequel to the grade 9 book. In Math they have finished a unit on Finance and are starting the unit on Measurement. For Sustainable Resources, the "cool" class as they say, have finished the unit on Alternative Energy and fabricated working models. Some of the air powered generators worked extremely well! The students have also started the vegetable garden; it once was a

playground on the far side of the school field but had become overgrown by black berry bushes. It is hoped that the students next year will benefit from some of the crops planted this year. The final project for this course will be going to Galliano Island to help build some structures and work at a reforestation project on the island.

Planning and Transition planning is well underway for grade 10 students to move on to their next school. It is time for the grade 10 students to move back to their "home schools" either Belmont or EMCS. Some of these students have made great changes in their study habits and have surpassed expectations in their learning. I will be sad to see them go as I have spent the past two years working very close with some.

Well I hope I have informed everyone enough, there is I am sure some things that I have left out. I hope the summer break is good for everyone! Find a beach or river to explore this summer, be respectful of all that you come into contact with. It's been a great year here at MTC!

Until next time; respectfully,

Greg Piche



John Muir student artwork.

Upcoming Events

Victoria Native Friendship Centre

- VNFC AGM is MAY 25th at the Victoria Native Friendship Centre(VNFC) 231 Regina Ave.. Registration begins at 5:00 pm
- The Pole Raising is June 21st at VNFC.
- Time to be announced
- The First Peoples Festival is June 19th at Spirit Square, located behind Victoria City Hall. Time: 11:00 am to 5:00 pm.

Contact Info: www.vnfc.ca

Métis Nation of Greater Victoria

Our next potluck will take place Wednesday the 15th of June in the gym of the Victoria Native Friendship Centre commencing at 5:30 pm.

Please remember to bring your own cutlery and to park either on the road or on the sports field side of the parking lot.

Welcome Back and Good Luck wishes...

- *Welcome back to Catrina Snook, ESD teacher.*
- *Good Luck to Samantha Harvey at Sooke Elementary.*
- *Lorraine Erickson we miss you.*
- *Congrats Lynn Ferguson for your writing publication!*

Acknowledgements

- Thanks to Dahlila Charlie, Belmont for being the gracious usher at the Aboriginal Education Department Graduation Recognition Ceremony on May 14th!
- Thanks to Robert Hennessey, Belmont for being the photographer at the Aboriginal Education Department Graduation Recognition Ceremony on May 14th!
- Thanks to Jessica Court for running a concession stand and donating to the Aboriginal Education Department Graduation Recognition Ceremony.
- Thank-you to the various individuals that donated beautiful graduation dresses to the May 14th event.

Thanks to the Aboriginal Education Staff for the newsletter submissions!

Spring & Summer Edition

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Submissions

If you would like to submit artwork or poems to the Aboriginal Education Newsletter please forward your submissions to ecovey@sd62.bc.ca

Earleen Covey (Aboriginal Education Department Secretary)

Fall Winter Newsletter winners **Hailey, Lorenzo, Braydon, Audrey-Mae!**



Cut the coupon below – return to your school office to send to Kathleen King-Hunt at the SBO.



Yes, I have read this newsletter with my family!

Return this coupon to win family books from Aboriginal Education Department. One coupon per family is fine.

A book prize will be forwarded to your school by June 10, 2011!

Name(s):

School:

Grade:

Return this coupon to your school's office to be forwarded to the SD62 School Board Office.

Attention: Kathleen King-Hunt, District Principal Aboriginal Education

Photo page— Aboriginal Education Recognition Ceremony May 14th

